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B·W·I STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
27 JANUARY 1954

Anguilla - Leeward Islands Registration Markings & Labels

Founder:
P.T. SAUNDERS, FRPSL

President:
E. V. TOEG, FRPSL

Vice-Presidents:
Charles FREELAND
Simon GOLDBLATT

BULLETIN No. 193 JUNE 2002

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

Web Site: bwisc.org

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OBJECTS

1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.

2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.

3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTION -The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10.00 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £14 / $20 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1 January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, ***in sterling*** (by personal cheque or standing ORDER drawn on a UK Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA and the Caribbean) who do not pay their subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA $20 made payable to 'BWISC'. Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

WIPEX

Being held at the County Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1
Saturday 5th October 2002

84th PHILATELIC CONGRESS of GREAT BRITAIN 2002

Being held at DAWLISH , Devon, from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th September.

FORGERIES is the theme and we have good speakers and displays lined up for you, including parts of the Royal Forgeries Collection, including artifacts. An ALTERNATE Programme is also arranged for Wives Husbands / Collectors who want a change from stamps. An excellent Hotel, a delightful part of Devon, we look forward to welcoming you to Congress 2002. Additional days before and / or after Congress can be arranged. I will get a daily room rate for you if you are interested.

Barry Horne, Organiser/Vice Chairman, Congress Office:- ABPS Congress 2002, C G I Services Limited, 29 Bowhay Lane, EXETER EX4 1PE fax: 01392 427 632 tel:- 01392. 273012

Further Details at our web site bwisc.org under Programme.

NEW! NEW!

INDEX TO BULLETINS 1 – 191

A complete index to all Bulletins up to and including the December 2001 issue

A4 size to fit in with the new sized Bulletin

Price: £2.50 (UK), £3.00 (Europe & Overseas), $5.00 (US)

Available from Mike Spaven, 'Eccleston House', 272, Prescot Road,
St. Helens, MERSEYSIDE, WA10 3AB

Telephone: 01744-23437
E-mail: jmlspaven@aol.com

INDEX TO BULLETINS 1 – 192 ***BY PETER FERNBANK***

The Index to the Bulletins has now been converted to electronic file format and brought up-to-date. The opportunity has been taken to arrange the entries in a more logical fashion, sub-headings of Postal History, Postal Markings, Stamps/Postal Stationery and Miscellaneous being provided under each territory heading, arranged in alphabetical order.

Since the index now contains a summary of nearly fifty years worth of Bulletins, it has been deemed necessary to make adjustments to some of the original entries in order to restrict the index to a manageable size. Note also that the page number reference for each entry now contains only the first page number rather than the range of pages. The decision on what topic to include under each sub-heading has been mine alone, and as a noted non-Postal Historian there is the possibility that you might disagree on my categorization for certain entries. Also, with such a drastic revision, the odd error may have crept in. In either case, please let me know – it is now a relatively simple matter to correct it.

Finally, to potential authors, please give careful thought to the title that you choose for your article. The title I chose for an article I submitted a number of years ago, 'Virgin Islands – a De La Rue Mistake', describing a printing made by mistake for Virgin Islands instead of Leeward Islands, gives no clue as to the content. It was left to the index compiler to find a suitable title under which to index it, someone who may or may not have fully understood the content. You are the expert on the content of your article and with a little forethought it is usually possible to chose a title that is both attention grabbing and suitable as an index entry.

[The Index has now been printed and is available from Mike Spaven (address at front) for the sum of £2.50 (UK), £3.00 (Europe & Overseas) or US$5.00 (USA & Canada) – Ed.]

Next postal auction will soon be published.
Highlights will include:

- Bahamas with Out Island postmarks,
- some good Barbados with classic covers and postcards
- and a fine collection of G.B. used in Danish West Indies covers which are offered individually.

There are also many censored covers and for once a useful section of Leewards keyplate issues.

Text of the catalogue can be downloaded from my website and images of most lots can also be viewed here.
www.pennymead.com

Pennymead Auctions

PTS

1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ
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Tel: 01423 865962 Fax: 01423 547057

PTS

WIPEX 2002

BY DENNIS MITTON

As you may have seen in an earlier issue of the Bulletin WIPEX this year will take place on Saturday 5th October 2002 at the County Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1. The show will open at 9.45am and close at 4.45pm. The County Hotel is situated just down from Euston Road. Upper Woburn Place is almost opposite Euston railway station, Euston is the nearest Underground station. Coming from Euston, the hotel is on the left hand side being the same side as the Bonnington which is about 400m further on.

The reason for the change of venue is that the Bonnington have put up their rates. The County offers the same facilities and I am sure members will not be disappointed with the change of venue.

There is a change of format this year as unfortunately Pennymead will not be holding an auction. There will be the usual specialist BWI dealers plus a members approval table with Simon Goldblatt in charge. There will also be the Circles publication table with hopefully rare signed copies for sale. In place of the auction there will be 3 displays with a short talk of some 20-30mins. The displays will be by Charles Freeland who will be showing Crown Circles of the West Indies. Mr. B Ivanovic will show Mail to the West Indies up to c.1860. Unless I receive a better offer Dennis Mitton will display Bermuda Boer War Mail.

There will also be a session of the Expert Committee consisting of Charles Freeland, Simon Goldblatt and Alan Leverton who will look at any BWI philatelic item and give a free opinion. So bring along anything causing you a problem. As many as possible please. All this will be in public so you can disagee with the experts if you choose to do so.

All this is FREE OF CHARGE. I understand that the hotel charges £1 for a small pot of coffee which is cheap for a London hotel.

Everyone enjoys WIPEX so come along for a good day out.

MINUTES OF THE 48TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD 2:15 PM SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2002 AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL

1. Chairman's Welcome

The meeting was opened by Derek Nathan, Chairman of the Committee, who extended a warm welcome to the 37 members present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Messrs. D. Charlesworth, P. Ford, H. Green, C. May, J. Riggall, B. Rogers and S. Sharp.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2001 as published in the June 2001 Bulletin were taken as read and approved by the members present.

4. Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)

Last year's programme of events included the AGM and members auction on 28 April 2001. This was fully reported in the Bulletin for June 2001. The highlight of the year was the biennial convention at the Manor House Hotel in Royal Leamington Spa. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but I understand that it was a great success. The event was admirably reported and described in the December 2001 Bulletin.

For the current year, WIPEX will be held at the County Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, W 1 on Saturday 5 October. Full details will be published in the June Bulletin.

The membership now stands at a total of 330, of which 226 are UK members and 104 are overseas members. This is slightly down on last year's total of 343 because 15 members were removed due to failure to pay their subscriptions, even after reminder letters. Two members died during the year and 4 members resigned. However, we have now gained 8 new members. I am quite surprised that these figures actually add up to the current total of 330! The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated. Changes of addresses etc. and new members are now recorded in each issue of the Bulletin. Members are urged to let me

know about any change of address as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss an issue of the Bulletin.

5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Peter Ford)

In his absence, Peter Ford's report was read by Steve Jarvis.

I took over the editorship of the Bulletin at short notice last year when Denis Charlesworth came to the end of his long stint in the post. We had just published the first issue in the new format and I was happy to continue with this. I have aimed each quarter to produce an issue of some 36 pages and, thanks to the many contributors, I have had little problem in doing this. In fact, my last effort had to be extended to 40 pages, such was the volume of contributions. I should like to thank all those who submitted articles throughout the year.

The new format has met with almost universal approval and I believe that members are more willing to write and submit more lengthy articles on the new A4 page size. I have ordered some new Bulletin binders in the new A4 size and these should be available shortly. Peter Fembank has done a great job in producing a new up-to-date Index to the Bulletins. This is now available and it is hoped to produce a new one each year prior to the AGM containing information up to and including the previous December's issue.

We have been trying to find a volunteer to take over the Editorship for quite a while now and, at last, someone has come forward. Steve Jarvis has generously stepped into the editor's shoes and is well on the way to producing the next issue for June. I might add that Steve volunteered before our Chairman's entreaty in the March issue. We have changed our printer to one in Penrith, conveniently near to Michael Oliver who has volunteered to take over the distribution of the Bulletin.

Before finishing, I must thank those members who have helped me with the editor's job over the last year. Mine was only a job of typesetting the Bulletin; others proof-read it and distributed it. We now have a Bulletin which is proving to be more popular but this can only continue as long as members continue to contribute articles.

The report was adopted by the meeting.

6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The Income statement for the Study Circle for the year ended 31st December 2001 shows a surplus, but only just. The surplus of £1 is only achieved because of the substantial contribution from the Auction (£852) and a profit on the sale of publications (£445).

The cost of the production and distribution of the bulletin, net of advertising receipts, increased by more than 50% compared to 2000 largely due to the increase in size and content. In fact another increase in the printing cost for the first issue of the Bulletin in 2002 has led to a change of printer for the future hopefully to restrain costs. However the net cost for 2002 is not likely to be less than 2001 and it is not expected that the contribution from the Auction and publication sales will be as high as in 2001. It is likely therefore that there will be a shortfall in 2002.

It is therefore inevitable that we need to consider an increase in subscriptions to enable the finances to be brought back into equilibrium in the future. It is proposed therefore to increase subscriptions for the year 2003 and onwards to £10 per annum for members in the UK and Europe and £14 ($20) for members elsewhere. Due to the number of members who have paid in advance, the full effect of the increase will not be felt immediately. If any member, who has paid in advance, wishes to make a contribution towards the extra costs now being incurred, any such donation would be gratefully received by the Treasurer.

I would like once again to thank Tony Farmer for auditing the accounts for the Study Circle in his usual professional way.

During the discussion, which followed Ray's report, there were some suggestions made. It was suggested that a higher interest rate could be obtained on the bank account. Ray said that this was difficult to achieve, but he would look into the matter. The possibility of sending the Bulletin by e-mail to save on postage was suggested. Steve Jarvis said that the size of the file could be large, especially if photos were included, and there were problems with charging. Charles Freeland said that we should trust our Treasurer and accept his recommendations. The report was adopted unanimously by the meeting.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2001

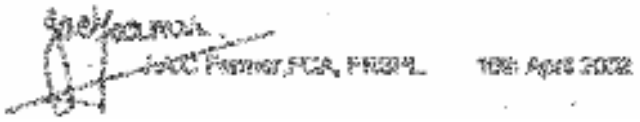
	£'s	2001		2000
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		2,677		2,494
Publications – Net surplus less postage	1,041		1,592	
Less: Publication launch costs	-		*(660)*	‘
Storage costs	-		*(474)*	
Depreciation of printer	(596)	445	(596)	(138)
Auction and other donations		852		827
Opinion fees		26		23
Interest received less tax		32		67
TOTAL INCOME		**4,032**		**3,273**
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	2,003		1,100	
Distribution and editorial expenses	1,151	3,154	811	1,911
Library - Acquisitions and insurance		162		160
Meeting room hire		200		-
Leamington convention – net cost after recoveries (2000 Joint meeting with BCPSC)		35		575
ABPS affiliation fee		144		142
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		185		295
Miscellaneous		151		174
		4,031		**3,257**
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	**£'s**	**1**	**£'s**	**16**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2001

ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance at 1st January 2001		18,551		18,535
Add: Surplus for the year		1		16
Dollar conversion reserve		275		242
		18,827		18,793
Less : Stocks of publications at cost		(15,158)		(14,598)
	£'s	**3,669**	**£'s**	**4,195**
REPRESENTED BY:				
Printer (net of depreciation)		-		596
Cash at banks		6,307		6,402
Debtors - amounts due to us		226		438
		6,533		7,436
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,681)		(2,528)	
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(183)	(2,864)	(713)	(3,241)
	£'s	**3,669**	**£'s**	**4,195**

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2001 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me ; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2001 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, are unlikely to have a market value of the sum stated on that date and therefore in the balance sheet have been treated as having a nil value. In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound. There are two honorary life members.



7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Derek Nathan)

This was a very quiet year for the Library, mostly because the Librarian was much occupied with other matters. Nine borrowings of 95 items was a figure much inflated by the single item of 69 back numbers of the Bulletin, which are being edited for the website.

Apart from that, there were a few additions which have been specified in the Bulletin, the scrap books are slowly being edited by the Group Leaders, but this is a lengthy process, some of these people holding the scrapbooks for over a year without visible improvement.

The membership does seem to be unaware of the potential obtainable by tuning into the Library, something about which steps have now been taken to deal with. The library list is now on the web site bwisc.org.

Although not strictly within the period under report, I am happy to inform you that Ian Jakes has volunteered to take over the Library, has already taken delivery of some eight boxes of catalogues which Peter Longmuir has been sorting out for us, and will be receiving the bulk on 12th May. I look forward to a more dynamic Hon: Librarian than we have been used to.

During the discussion, Charles Freeland mentioned a book on St. Vincent by Peter Jaffe, which was to be added to the library.

8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

In his absence, Peter Ford's report was read by Derek Nathan.

The activities of the publications empire of the BWISC continues apace and although we have not published any new books since my last report, sales of our latest books are going well. I have to report sales of over £3,200 during 2001 with expenditure of just over £2,600. This last figure is inflated because I have had to print more copies of some books to ensure we have a reasonable stock before I go abroad. Our latest publications, namely Volume 6 of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia (43 sold) and Nevis (52 sold) are doing well. Sales of our other books continue steadily; viz. Trinidad Airmails (7 sold), Montserrat (10 sold), Volume 1 of Jamaica (10 sold), Leewards Islands (8 sold), Barbados (4 sold) and Dominica (2 sold).

I am happy to report that we have found a willing volunteer to store and distribute our publications. Mike Spaven has the storage space and the time to take over this job thereby saving us some £500 odd per annum on storage costs. All orders for publications should now be channelled through Mike.

The next Volumes of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia have been delayed slightly but I am hoping to have Volume 9 (Military Mails) out by the end of the year and Volume 8 (Airmails) by this time next year.

Future projects include Mike Rego's Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Andrew Robertson's Turks Islands, a booklet on St. Kitts and possibly an extended edition of the late Sir John Marriott's Trinidad which I would like to publish in time for our Golden Jubilee in 2004.

For these future projects, I have looked into replacing our colour inkjet printer. There is no doubt that the prices of colour laser printers have come down lately and as I see no necessity to purchase one for at least another year, hopefully prices will have dropped still further by then. I have, needless to say, been somewhat distracted this last year by the work involved in producing the Bulletin but hopefully, in the future, I should be able to publish at least one book and one booklet each year, provided members continue to write them.

That concludes my report to the membership.

The report was adopted by the meeting.

9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Douglas Nottingham)

This year has been a very busy one for me with major changes to my job and a move to our HQ. Although, now working in London, I have had little time for my hobby. This is not good enough.

I have had a few new members communicate with me, often through our web page, some obviously only collecting modern material. At last years AGM I thought that I was not making enough impact and considered giving up my efforts then. Now with the proposed changes it is time that I stood down for others to take up the task.

Without new blood this organisation will not be renewed, and I am not that person, we need new collectors to replace and reinvigorate BWISC. Without these, our thoughts that some day, someone, will want our prized collections, when we have finished with them, will it happen?

Most of the West Indies countries has suffered from somewhat over production and if concentrating on earlier material, with the constant rise in price of better material, its is difficult to constantly improve one's collection. The search becomes ever more difficult.

The success of the organisations members research and the specialised dealers we now have in the West Indies field is evidence of the interest but we must be careful not to raise levels of cost so that we stifle the new devotes. Fine material will not increase in supply?

Others need encouragement and in developing this organisation we need to carry along new collectors and recognise their interests and be very careful not to sometimes use comments, in the Bulletin, that could be counter productive. Whilst you can collect what ever you want we all have our limits, maybe financial, or maybe time, and maybe when we have realised this then we can all enjoy Philately a little more.

The success of this organisation will only come about by dedication and I wish my successor all the very best.

The report was adopted by the meeting.

10. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Derek Nathan)

The highlight of 2001 was undoubtedly the Convention at Leamington, but first I must touch upon the AGM in the Spring and the Auction which followed it. Full reports of both have appeared in the Bulletin but it must be stated once again how much the Study Circle owes to the enormous amount of hard work put in by Simon Goldblatt and the Auction sub-committee. Once again the Auction was an outstanding success, and it is the cornerstone upon which has been built whatever impact the Study Circle may have.

The Convention was a very happy occasion which featured displays from two new members, Andrew Robertson on Turks Islands and Stefan Heijtz on Barbados postal History. If we can continue to attract new members of this calibre we shall be a very happy Study Circle.

The big change to have been instituted this year was production of the Bulletin in A4 size. This has given contributors a chance to expand their themes from the rather cramped space available in A5, has given the Editor more scope and the advertisers more room. My personal feeling is that it also has a better chance of being taken seriously in the wider World. The downside, of course, is the additional cost of printing and postage. Steps have been taken to reduce the printing cost by moving it away from the London area, but the postage remains a problem. Judging by recent forecasts emerging from Consignia, horrid name, postage costs are liable to increase alarmingly in the period for which we must budget. Ray has stated an opinion on this, which you have discussed, and I'm sure you know where my sympathies lie.

Since the end of the year in question, in response to an impassioned plea in the Bulletin, a number of volunteers have come forward, who would like to help to further the objects of the Circle. Three of these, Steve Jarvis, Ian Jakes and Anthony Wilkinson, would be happy to receive your votes to become Editor, Librarian and Publicity Officer, respectively. I hope that we can encourage the others, Nigel Chandler, A.G Brown, Paul Hancock and Terry Harris, to be a little patient while we work out the best way to utilise their various talents. I'm delighted that these people have come forward and demonstrated that we have some strength in depth that I had been beginning to doubt.

I should like to thank the members of your Committee for rallying round particularly, during the last difficult few months. Your Secretary, Peter Boulton, has been nursing his wife before tragically losing her quite recently. Peter, you have the sympathy of all of us. Steve Sharp is undergoing a course of chemotherapy which has laid him very low and for this reason has asked not to be re-elected to your committee. We wish him well and hope for a speedy recovery.

Peter Ford is in the throes of retirement and moving to Spain. He is sorry not to be here today, but is making his impact felt, even though his modem has been failing him during the past few weeks. As you are aware, Mike Spaven has taken over stage and distribution of publications. Thank you, Mike, and I hope it continues to work well.

We are delighted to see our President, Victor Toeg here today, and hope his health allows him to clime to many future meetings.

Now lets get on with the elections and the Auction.

The report was adopted by the meeting.

11. Election of a new Hon. Editor

Derek Nathan proposed Steve Jarvis as the new Hon. Editor. This was seconded by Charles Freeland and carried unanimously by the meeting.

12. Election of a new Hon. Librarian

Derek Nathan proposed Ian Jakes as the new Hon. Librarian. This was seconded by Victor Toeg and carried unanimously by the meeting.

13. Election of a new Hon. Public Relations Officer

Derek Nathan proposed Tony Wilkinson as the new Hon. Public Relations Officer. This was seconded by Victor Toeg and carried unanimously by the meeting.

14. Election of the Chairman of the Committee

Charles Freeland proposed a vote of thanks to Derek Nathan for his work as Chairman of the Committee. This was accepted by the meeting and Derek was re-elected unanimously as Chairman of the Committee.

15. Re-election of Officers

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. M. Hamilton and D. Mitton have all agreed to stand as members of the Committee and all are automatically re-elected.

16. Re-election of the Hon. Auditor

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer has agreed to stand and there are no other nominations. Consequently, he is automatically re-elected. Ray Stanton proposed a vote of thanks to Tony for the good work which he has done as auditor, and this was agreed by the meeting.

17. Other Business

At the Committee meeting in the morning, it was proposed that a sub committee be formed to consider options for celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2004. This was agreed and there was a proposal that our logo should also be changed. Suggestions for a new design were welcomed.

Simon Goldblatt asked for volunteers to help on the auction sub committee. The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.

AUCTION REPORT – 2002

The run-up to this year's auction was marred by the news of Stephen Sharp's illness. This has forced him to stand down from the auction sub-committee, in which he has played such a valuable part over the years. It was some consolation to him and the rest of the team that the sale was another resounding success. A total of £13,565.50, when the bidding closed, was significantly above any previous realisation from our customary 500-lot annual sales.

Leaving aside the actual realisations, there is a remarkable consistency in successive results. The postal bidders and the room bidders vie with one another for supremacy; and we usually sell about two-thirds of what is on offer, with sales running at above 70% by the time that unsold lots have been offered to the active participants, and shown again at our autumn events in either Leamington or London. So this year, the amount spent by postal bidders, the amount laid out by those who attended, and the value of unsold lots, as estimated, worked out as near as may be to a third, a third, a third.

Lest the reader suppose it is unrealistic to bring into account the estimated value of unsold lots, we have done some arithmetic this year. Leaving out the results of one seller only (who regularly asks our team to value downwards a few special lots in the hope – but not the expectation – that somebody might pick up a bargain!) we have worked a comparison between estimated values and prices realised. This year the two figures tallied to within about £20! A difference of less than 0.2%.

This incredibly close correspondence is all the more significant because few of our sellers impose reserves, being generally content for their material to be sold at our base figure of around three quarters of estimate, if only one buyer is interested. Our Circle covers over twenty territories, and most of our members specialise in a much narrower field. So to realise its estimate the particular lot has to interest at least two members, each of whom values it at around that figure; for an item to attract attention from at least seven bidders – as Bahamas lot 27 and St Lucia lot 386 did this year

– it has to have something really special going for it. We must add that our figure of less than 0.2% was not influenced at all by any reserves on the auctioneer's book.

It means, we believe, that our continuing aim to get valuation in the right zone (and our sellers well know that we don't just take their word for this) is broadly achieved year by year, and that those who acquire items in the absence of competition, either as the sole bidder or as first in the queue for the unsold lots, will generally get value for outlay in addition to the satisfaction we all get from adding to our own chosen theme.

Room bidders took their time to warm up this year, which had little impact on Antigua or Bahamas, each of which was well covered on the book. Indeed, the first three bids received on the used "Thompson" flaw (lot 8) were all at the estimate of £60; but it opened against the Room at £65, and this turned out to be top of the book, being trumped by a raised hand at £70.

We use the phrase "turned out" advisedly. Except where the auctioneer announces tied bids on the book, the member who is present and competing has no way of telling whether one more bid will beat the book. Unless, that is, the auctioneer's glasses are leading him astray – as happened with lot 212, where he discovered that the hammer figure of £260 was way above his authority. So buyer B33, who had bid up to £250, found himself paying £230. Had the former bid stood, the discrepancy between estimate and realisation would have come down to less than 0.005%.

Only, we must not get carried away. Postal bidders had over 30% to spare against their aggregate maximum. Members present probably had the same. Actual value is one bid above what the under-bidder will pay.

We mentioned the slow warm-up in the Room, and Barbados felt the draught: Uncharacteristically, half of the first 36 lots here failed to sell, though we expect at least some to be snapped up by those having second thoughts. The auction team would have been sadly disappointed had our Revenue tit-bits (lots 81 to 89) met the same fate, but it was these that brought the Room to life. Each item was competed for strongly. Only one went to an absent member and lots 82, 86, 87 and 89 were fought for long after input from the book had faded away.

From this point on, right through to the end of Trinidad, there was scarcely any dead ground: a run of four lots passed in later Bermuda (lots 129 to 132); only one lot sold between each of British Guiana's 142 to 147 and 170 to 175, surprisingly leaving the richly coloured and handsomely postmarked lot 142 and three useful watermark varieties still on our hands; and two lots out of eight changing hands in later Jamaica (between 333 and 340). At all other points over this long period, demand was steady and occasionally fierce.

Lot 149 provided a contrast with lot 142. No bids on the book here, but three much more gettable postmarks on much more gettable stamps averaged £70 apiece after a spirited contest. In fairness, high prices are sometimes attained for decent copies of SG21, quite apart from postmark interest.

The first lot to depart markedly from estimate was our frontispiece, lot 194, fetching £31 against £10. A member who missed the sale and forgot to bid earlier by post, asked after it, responding, when told the price, "Is that all it went for?". Well, sorry, Mr, Mrs or Miss Seller, but we did our best.

A modern Belize item (lot 203) doubled its estimate; then the Grand Cayman TRD on piece (lot 206) was pushed up to a still justifiable £160. Unexpectedly, lot 211, the very rare used 1d on 4d postal fiscal from the Caymans (with "timid" certificate) opened with nothing on the book: but you needed to inspect it. Competing room bidders drove it up to £340 – a level otherwise achieved only by another of our front colour illustrations, St Vincent's 4d on 1/-, lot 412.

We think here that our catalogue has survived the delicate transition from Michael Hamilton's much appreciated personal handling over countless years past, into the hands of another typist and another printer (thank you, Janet Sharp, and Catford Print Centre). One overseas non-member who stumbled across a copy, promptly applied to join us, and there are plans to publish extracts on the Circle's new web-site.

It was no real surprise when the manuscript "Rosalie" (lot 234) took off, for these much prized postal marks are impossible to assess closely. For the equally rare St Margaret's Bay TRD of Jamaica, (lot 302) we had what looked very like a "buy" bid on the book; but it wasn't, and the book limit was over-topped. Each of these lots realised £130.

We had another difficult-to-value item in our "poorly patient", Jamaica's lot 324. No postal bids, but the Room disagreed with our £16, and paid £40 for it. Shortly after came the Leeward Is. plate nos,

lot 343, and again there was something that looked like a “buy” bid. Yet £110 against an estimate of £30 proved not to be enough. The Room took it at £115.

These were most of the highlights. Your auction team worries every year over maintaining standards; yet, when it comes to the crunch, we even seem to improve on them. Where three-figure realisations were once a great rarity, this year there were 21 lots sold at that level. And 35 members showed their willingness to spend three figures – or more! We do not forget members with shallower pockets, and make sure there are a few items to be picked up at a low price; but these are no easier to sell than other material of any price level. We have to fight rising costs with rising quality, and members expect this anyway. By now, the Circle has to sell £8,000 worth of auction lots in order to cover its outlay. Thanks to the members who use us as a sales outlet, this is no longer a frightening figure.

See opposite for Realisations:-

Amendments to Members Details

Name	Initial	Address	Phone / Fax / email	Interests
New Members:				
Bates	BR	3639 Worth Circle, The Villages, Fl 32162 USA	352-753-6143	BAH (MS, US, CA all reigns), BAR (pre E7, OB) BER (MS, US all reigns) CAY (MS, US pre G5)
Bennett	DC	The Old School, Ley Green, Kings Walden, Herts SG4 8LX	01462-768782 (H) 0207-213-5342 (W) davidcbennett@leyg.demon.co.uk	BWI (to KGVI)
Heijtz	S	Box 26048 S-100-41, Stockholm, SWEDEN	446 – 8108362 446 - 8108361 (F) stefan.heijtz@home.se	BAR
Kennard	CC	68 Liberty Hall Road Addlestone Surrey KT15 1SS	+44 (0) 1932-830220 0208 358 9583 (W) Britishguiana@hotmail.com	BRG, GUY (to 1970). PH, PL
Change of Address:				
Fannon	C	2721 SW 15th St. 202, Delray Reach, Florida 33445 USA		BAH (US esp PM)
Fredrick	J L	3486-2E Bahia Blanca W Unit ZE, Laguna Woods Ca 92653-2860 USA	(944(581 -0072 j2fredrick@fea.net	WT -(*BVI, CAY, JAM, MON, STK, STV) BVI(PC), CAR(PL) DA(S, PH, PL)
Frost	P	c/o Argyll Etkin Ltd, Ramilles Building, 1-9 Hills Place, Oxford Circus London W1F 7SA		
Fuller	D	PO Box 925 Norfolk Island 2899 South Pacific	+672 3 22661 djbsf_ni.net.nf	LEE (PS)
Gee	C	32 Blagreaves Lane, Littleover, DERBY DE23 1FH		
Tweddell	E T	358 Silver Lane Berkeley Springs WV 25411 USA	(304) 258-3958 tweddell@intrepid.net	TUR, MON, NEV, STC, TOB, (PC, E7, G5)
Warren	ML	13331 Berkeley Street, # 2 Santa Monica, California 90404 USA	(408) 888 0248 threed@ix.netcom.com	1900-50 Defins BAH, BER, LEE, STL, STK, JAM, GRE, ANT, BVI
Wilson	DA	PO Box 1135 Great Falls Virginia 22066-8135 USA	1-301-675-6909 (M) wilsondajx@aol.com	BAH

Auction Realisations in £ Sterling

Sale Total £13,565.50, Numbers not listed were unsold

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
2	12	75	21	153	19	227	24	292	70	364	50	431	13.50
4	7.50	80	30	154	46	229	19	293	95	365	21	433	18
6	23	81	26	156	260	232	52	294	30	367	70	434	4
7	46	82	38	157	46	233	32	295	33	368	31	435	36
8	70	83	56	158	70	234	130	296	50	370	32	436	38
9	52	84	42	159	52	235	8	297	38	371	15.50	437	7.50
10	21	85	80	161	21	236	44	300	50	373	54	438	15
11	30	86	56	162	48	237	46	301	14.50	377	21	439	33
12	4	87	39	163	37	238	34	302	130	378	33	442	9
13	10.50	88	42	165	54	239	65	303	33	379	15	443	44
14	42	89	44	166	42	240	23	306	115	380	15	444	11
16	36	90	19	167	38	243	70	310	10	381	32	445	27
17	30	91	5.25	168	22	244	11	311	28	382	9.50	446	75
18	12	94	20	169	80	245	21	313	12.50	384	12	447	31
19	37	95	6	172	65	247	15	314	34	385	44	448	48
21	4.50	98	120	176	75	250	6	316	56	386	27	449	24
23	27	99	16.50	177	54	252	19	317	13.50	388	60	450	11
25	33	100	28	178	50	254	4.50	318	48	389	16	452	31
26	46	104	22	179	7	255	27	319	14	390	45.50	453	38
27	37	105	60	180	8.50	256	8	321	24	391	65	454	105
28	14	108	15	181	31	257	23	324	40	392	26	455	65
29	23	109	19	182	31	258	9	325	9	394	19	456	12
30	26	110	22	186	21	259	18	326	6	395	8.50	458	23
31	4	111	21	188	39	260	28	329	3.75	397	33	460	12
32	30	112	30	189	5.50	262	32	330	8	398	36	461	25
33	70	113	21	190	46	263	42	331	70	399	12	462	9
37	39	114	21	191	21	264	58	332	27	400	90	463	7
39	33	115	18	192	31	265	30	335	14.50	401	27	464	7.50
40	6	116	12	193	28	267	15	338	6.50	402	70	466	30
41	39	117	70	194	31	268	10.50	341	30	404	27	467	18
42	27	120	15	195	37	269	15	342	50	406	52	470	14
43	65	121	16.50	198	27	270	18	343	115	409	44	472	29
44	130	123	9	199	60	271	15	346	25	410	46	480	60
45	52	124	12	200	16	272	7.50	347	9.50	411	31	481	4
46	80	125	16.50	201	11	273	52	348	12	412	340	482	31
47	115	127	44	203	36	274	28	350	26	413	52	483	2.50
48	110	128	20	204	60	276	36	351	58	415	18	484	26
51	115	133	65	206	160	279	9	352	20	416	90	485	14
54	37	135	75	207	90	280	24	353	24	417	34	486	27
55	28	137	38	211	340	281	9	354	3	418	52	491	95
56	54	138	140	212	230	282	10	355	7	419	28	494	30
61	75	139	90	213	48	283	39	356	12	420	13.50	495	26
62	27	140	38	214	13	284	23	357	23	421	110	498	15
63	54	141	42	215	50	285	115	358	6	422	44	500	15
68	3	143	60	218	20	286	120	359	46	423	12	501	21
69	6	148	28	220	32	287	320	360	33	425	19	504	24
70	12	149	210	222	20	288	19	361	50	426	28	505	14.50
71	4.50	150	50	224	15	289	15	362	52	428	12	507	12
74	12	151	36	226	9.50	291	13.50	363	180	430	28	508	11.50

1793

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BARBADOS

1916 REVENUE VARIETIES BY *SIMON GOLDBLATT*

In helping to prepare Auction No. 30, I have needed to look closely at the local Revenue overprints of 1916. While doing so, I am reminded that there are some varieties of overprint which go beyond the listings by Ed Bayley and which deserve closer research by those qualified for the task.

Taking the larger Revenue overprint which first figures on Bayley's R8 to R13, there are certain stamps where the first 'e' appears in a noticeably different type. I suspect that the overprint was set up in a small setting, repeated several times in a pane. It would be interesting to hear the views of others.

I mention next some minor characteristics, which may help in analysis of the setting. One meets the letter 'v' with the left serif missing. I am not clear whether this features only once in the setting, as I have it on 1d red and 2d grey, and they look slightly different. The latter, however, is the 'Revenue only' overprint, which may have been set up afresh. My last observation is of a 1d stamp with space between 'n' and 'u'. This certainly due to loose type and may not have occurred throughout the printing process.

Although I take the same Revenue overprint to be used for the 2½d surcharges, the different type 'e' is less easy to identify against the blue background of the King's head. Frequency of the incidence of the surcharge varieties may give a clue to the size of the setting. I note three of these amongst the nine stamps of the breed on my album pages and I keep changing my mind as to whether they are all 'Penvy', all 'Penry', or a mixture. However, one also meets a broken 'y' which can look very like 'Pennu', and loose type again produces variation, sometimes with a wide space between 'One' and 'Penny and sometimes separating 'On' from its 'e'. I have each of these represented, as I have not made an effort to duplicate the basic stamp.

In the case of the small overprint, a much more controversial item appears to show a double overprint on the 4d value. The exciting part, however, is that the two versions are in different shades, one in gold and the other, I suppose, in Bayley's 'red-brown'. I have some hesitation here, because this second shade (judging by another 4d stamp in my hands) appears to have a significant element of gold in it. Is it possible that a number of panes of the 4d value were deliberately passed through the press a second time, to receive a darker overprint that made the finished product less illegible? This would require very accurate registration, and I offer these additional pointers. My example in red-brown shows up from the reverse side as being very heavily impressed by comparison with the other two. My 'double' shows the two sets of lettering accurately aligned, with the darker overprint offset to the left by ½mm throughout. If deliberate double overprinting is the right explanation, it was an ambitious venture by printers to whose lack of consistency with the larger overprint I have drawn attention above.

These stamps were obviously liked by collectors of the day, so that one can still hope to acquire reasonable quantities unused as well as used (well, reasonable quantities, after bringing the small printings into account). So there may well be enough of the issues surviving to carry this exploration forward.

BRITISH GUIANA

POSTAL DELIVERIES WITHIN GEORGETOWN *BY DEREK NATHAN*

In common with large towns and cities throughout the world, deliveries in Georgetown were divided into Routes (or Walks) which were numbered and clearly defined. I have not managed to establish when this was started, except that it was between 1879 and 1938, and I should appreciate help in reducing this rather lengthy period.

I have a small number of covers which include the route number in the address, nearly all from Government Offices, and it would seem to me that the bulk of the population ignored the scheme entirely.

On the other hand, the Post Office did attempt to encourage correspondents to nominate the Route number within the address, and a cover from Mauritius in December 1938 to 200 Charlotte Camp Street, Georgetown, has a rubber stamp impression reading 'Your Postal Address is Georgetown

No…….' with a blue pencil '2' inserted. This is probably a reaction to the address as written, Charlotte Street crossing Camp Street, two separate roads.

My nearest dated Post Office Guide is 1943, by which time this address was on Route 3. Furthermore, by 1954, my next reference, it is back on Route 2. The routes did change fairly frequently, and my 1943 Guide tells me that:–

1. The Georgetown City Deliveries were re-organised with effect from April 3, 1939 and the Letter Carrier Routes (or "Walks") increased from 14 to 16'.

It also tells us:–

2. With effect as from April 10, 1939 the city area of Albouystown was included (as Route G.T. No. 17) in the City delivery effected direct from the G.P.O. instead of (as previously) from Albuoystown Branch Post Office; and the G.T. Routes were increased to 17.
3. With effect as from March 1, 1942, the overburdened BOURDA Delivery Route (G.T. 7) was re-arranged and a portion transferred to STABROEK (G.T. Route No 11),' and gives details.
4. With effect as from Nov. 23, 1942, the overburdened Routes 13 – 16 were redistributed into G.T.13–17 and the City area of ALBUOYSTOWN (previously G.T. 17) was re-numbered G.T.18'

You may wonder where all this detail is leading us.

I have in my collection two covers from the back end of 1942, both bearing a boxed violet cachet reading:-

'For prompt and safe delivery ask your

Correspondents to include your Georgetown

Route No 15 as part of your Postal Address' in one case and 'Route No. 18' in the other.

I should like to suggest that these cachets were used for a limited period around the date or the re-arrangement of Routes. They are the only ones I have seen. Has anyone else anything to add to this story, and, if so, could they write to the Bulletin about it, and share the information, rather than to me.

peter singer

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

EXTRACTS FROM *EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS* ***BY PETER FERNBANK***

All information from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News has been taken from the records of the late Mrs Gravenor, now in the library of Alan Leverton. Alan has generously made these available to me. [author's comments in square brackets]

633 O 635 (25 Nov 1911)

Mr. A.C.Roessler asks:- "Has it been noted that the name plate of Cayman Islands comes in two varieties? The most distinguishing feature is the 'M'; the middle leg is short on the 2½d., 3d, 6d and 1/- and long on the ½d. and 1d. All the long are thick letters, such as already noted in Northern Nigeria."

[In fact of the complete series, ½d to 10/-, only the ½d and 1d values feature the long middle leg.]

658 R 663 (8 Jun 1912)

The following are now issued:-

Portrait of King George.

½d green, 2d grey, 2/- violet and blue on blue, 3/- green and lilac.

663 S 676 (7 Sep 1912)

We illustrate the King George ½d, 2d., 2/- and 3/- recently chronicled. [only the ½d. was shown]

676 S 691 (21 Dec 1912)

From a *specimen* copy the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles a further value of the Georgian set.

Head of King George.

¼d. brown, multiple wmk., Crown CA, ordinary paper.

691 T 695 (18 Jan 1913)

We learn from the *Colonial Office Journal* (1.13), that three further values have been added to the Georgian set.

Portrait of King George. 1d, 4d., 6d.

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695 U 707 (12 Apr 1913)

We have received a supply of the 1d. and 6d. values with portrait of King George, as chronicled in No. 695.

Head of King George. multiple wmk., Crown CA.
1d. rose, ordinary paper, 6d. purple and lilac, chalky paper.

707 V 714 (31 May 1913)

Mr. Field of the *West End Philatelist* has received a supply of the Georgian 4d. black and red on yellow. He says:- "Presumably this is the first fourpenny value the inhabitants of these islands have been privileged to employ since the withdrawal of the 4d of the Edwardian series printed in the same colour. As the latter stamp was so unexpectedly taken out of issue, it is quite rare, and likely to rise in value in the near future, even though it has been obsolete for over two years."

[An astute observation from Mr Field; it is currently catalogued at £48.]

714 W 746 (10 Jan 1914)

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* chronicles two more values of the Georgian set, viz.:-

Portrait of King George. Watermarked Crown CA multiple, on tinted paper, perf. 14.
3d deep purple on yellow, 1/- black on bluish-green. [These are the white backs.]

746 X 748 (24 Jan 1914)

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News learns from the *Daily Express* that the 10/- value has been seen on green surface-tinted paper, which is one of the first to be recorded on this paper.

10/- green and carmine on green-tinted. [white back]

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748 Y 757 (28 Mar 1914)

We chronicled a 2½d envelope in No. 633 of E.W.S.N., but were then uncertain about the design; from the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* we learn that it was the figure design, they also report a wrapper of this design, size 120 x 330mm.

Wrapper. ½d dark green, paper yellowish.

757 Z 773 (18 Jul 1914)

We learn from the *Colonial Journal* that this Colony has been supplied with the 2½d. and 5s. values in the King George design. [Invoiced 29th May 1914]

773 Y 779 (29 Aug 1914)

We have just received a new consignment including a further supply of the 3d. and 1/- *provisional* tinted surface, white back varieties, which will enable us to complete distribution, in next despatch, to all New Issue Subscribers whose accounts are in credit, and not previously supplied. The Postmaster advises us that he could only supply half the quantity we ordered of the 3d. *white back*, and we have bought the entire balance of his stock. This will likely prove one of the scarcest provisional printings, and the number required for New Issue distribution leaves us with very few to offer. The 3d stamp now current is the Edwardian issue and the next printing of Georgian, will doubtless be on the full coloured yellow paper now in use.

[250 sheets of 60 of the 3d and 260 sheets of 60 of the 1/- were supplied, invoiced by De La Rue on 22nd Oct 1913. Despite Ewens' warning on the potential scarcity of the 3d it is currently catalogued at only £3.00]

779 Z 786 (17 Oct 1914)

Our supply of the 2½d value K.G. which we reported in No. 773 has just reached us and New Issue clients will find it in this week's distribution.

786 A 799 (16 Jan 1915)

The *Colonial Journal* refers to the Georgian 3d. and 10/- values as now printed on the dyed throughout multiple CA paper. Both these values were previously printed on the provisional tinted surface papers with white back.

MURRAY

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PAYNE LTD

799 B 814 (1 May 1915)

We learn the quantity of the 10/- provisional print on surface tinted paper with white back was 42 panes of 60 i.e. 2520 stamps, and as a number were appropriated for fiscal use, this is the rarest of the higher denominations on the surface printed papers. Few dealers in London possess stock beyond odd copies, if any, and our current quotations will be shortly advanced. [42 sheets of 60 of the 10/- white back confirmed, invoiced 22nd Oct. 1913).

814 D 865 (22 Apr 1916)

We gather from the *Colonial Journal* that the 1/- stamp has been supplied from Plate 5, on CA green paper, *dyed throughout*.

865 D 876 (8 Jul 1916)

Under date May 27th, we are advised by the commissioner at Grand Cayman that no War Tax stamps have been issued nor is there at present any such contemplated. It is therefore evident the statement, which emanated from an irresponsible quarter, to the effect that an issue was under consideration, is simply the outcome of a fanciful imagination.

The Cayman Is. postal officials would appear to have jumped very much ahead of themselves. Letters, etc., forwarded on May 27th showed year of postmark as 1919 instead of 1916. Fortunately a nice little number of stamps were so used on covers containing new supplies to us. These will no doubt prove to be rare in postmark errors.

876 E 881 (12 Aug 1916)

We learn from Mekeel's Weekly that the 1/- stamp, recently noted in *E.W.S.N. 865,* on green paper, dyed throughout, was put on sale at Georgetown, on May 15th 1916.

881 F 898 (9 Dec 1916) - *War Tax Postage*

Following up our correspondence of some months since, we received advice in September that the Legislative Assembly had *then* decided on a ½d War Tax for all letters to British Dominions outside of the Dependency. Further, that a provisional issue would be made by surcharging certain stock, "War Stamp 1½d". We at the time instantly cabled our requisition, and expect consignment is now very near at hand. As soon as received we will chronicle in full detail.

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Collectors not already on our register, but who decide *at once* to become members of our New Issue Service, will secure the chance of receiving not only this Cayman Is. provisional at the nominal 10%, but also two other important War Tax issues, not yet generally known, and which likely will prove to be first local provisionals of considerable value. The consignments are expected to arrive very shortly. Advice: Do not hesitate or delay if you wish to secure at best advantage - practically face value.

898 G 911 [10 Mar 1917]

We extract the following from *Mekeel's Weekly*:- The 1s. on the green through paper, issued at George Town on May 15th, 1916, was the first value supplied the Island, printed from the new plate 5. This plate consists of two panes of 60 each, side by side, and show four controls to the printed sheet, two in the upper margin and two in the lower. The sheet of 120 is cut into Post Office sheets of 60 before sending out, the wide margins at the right and left being trimmed down to within one-eighth [inch] of the marginal line.

A supply of the 2½d sent out at the same time was also printed from plate 5, but the sheets are of two panes of 60, undivided. This new printing of the 2½d is much darker blue than previous printings and the gum is dull white instead of yellowish as in the past. The watermark also in this new printing does not show up so transparently as formerly.

[This sheet format is curious since De La Rue's Private Day Books state that the only two printings of the 2½d from plate 5 up to this date, made in June and November 1916, were despatched from London cut into 60-set sheets).

911 H 912 [17 Mar 1917]

The *Postage Stamp* writes:- [Law 4 of 1916 passed to impose a Special War Tax. See The Cayman Islands - Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks by Aguilar and Saunders, p.79, for full details of the act.]

"All the unbroken sheets of the 2½d George. on hand, both at the Commissioner's Office and the Post Office at George Town, were sent to the Government Printing Office at Kingston, Jamaica, to be surcharged 'War Stamp 1½d'. This surcharge was done and the stamps returned to George Town.

Then a new difficulty developed. In the meantime, orders for these stamps had been accumulating, and the surcharged stock was not sufficient to last over the first day of sale.

Few denominations are stocked at George Town in excess of 24,000, and above 2½d this stock is much smaller. Large stocks are not desirable on account of climatic conditions affecting the gum.

The surcharged stock of war stamps was under 1,200 (??), and the Acting Commissioner, therefore, decided to withhold the issue, awaiting the receipt of another at 2½d which had been ordered from London. The consignment arrived in Jamaica in December, but, due to irregular communications, the stamps did not reach George Town until January 2nd. These stamps were sent back to Jamaica by the next schooner sailing, to be surcharged, and upon return to George Town will be placed in issue. This will probably be sometime in February."

In our opinion the above stated quantity of 1,200 should appear as 12,000. As a matter of fact our requisition, probably the first having been made by cable, was received just after the supply had been sent to Kingston for overprinting, and as it alone was for greater quantity it was decided to hold the issue in abeyance until further stock could be procured. The supply probably is now near to hand.

912 I 914 (31 Mar 1917) - *War Tax Postage*

A letter from Grand Cayman, dated March 1st, reached us on Tuesday last, advising that the quantity supply against our order for the surcharged 1½d War Stamp had been despatched. Evidently the consignment, being registered, has been forwarded by a different route, but we have no doubt the eagerly-awaited parcel will come to hand during the next few days.

914 J 916 (14 Apr 1917) - *War Tax Postage*

Just before the Easter vacation, the consignment of the War Stamp, 1½d surcharged on 2½d, came to hand. This first issue, as regards the overprint "War Stamp", is in two distinct printings. This occurred through the small original supply despatched from Grand Cayman to Kingston, Jamaica, having been at once overprinted and then held in reserve, awaiting the further delivery of the 2½d stamp ordered from London.

The *1st printing* in small type was made from one of the two line settings of the words 'War Stamp', in use for the Jamaican issues. The sheets of this supply are from Plate 5, in dull ultramarine shade with thin yellowish gum. It is stated the quantity was less than 90 sheets, i.e. about 10,000 stamps.

We received barely a quarter of the quantity we ordered, and expected of this 1st printing in small type, but in the circumstances of so limited an issue it is obvious our usual good fortune still prevails.

The *2nd printing* in large type was applied to panes of the new stock of the 2½d from Plate 5, in deep ultramarine with white gum.

The surcharge "1½d." in figures, across the original value in lower tablet, is in similar type in both printings.

In the 1st printing the process necessitated three separate operations to complete a sheet or rather two panes of sixty stamps. This being too tedious a process, a new setting or stereo of the words "WAR STAMP" and surcharge "1½d." combined, was prepared, so that the overprinting could be finished at a single operation, and the machining expeditiously dealt with on receipt of the new stock of 2½d, which had been considerably delayed in delivery.

To Be Continued in Next Bulletin

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DOMINICA

½D. GREEN WAR TAX STAMPS

BY JOHN DAVIS

In Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue SG 55, 56, and 57 are listed as being overprints on SG 47b – the deep green. Several years ago they were listed as being overprints on SG 47 – the blue-green, even when SG 47b was included in the catalogue.

The fact is the stamps were special printings for War Tax purposes, and immediately after being printed, they were overprinted as required. None of them were overprints on SG 47, or SG 47b.

The catalogue is to be suitably amended.

I am informed by David Aggersberg that SG 57 normally exists with the watermark sideways Crown to left as seen from the back. I assume, and it is only an assumption at this stage, that SG 55 (and hence SG 56 as well) also have the same watermark as normal.

Until recently, all copies in my collection conformed to this. However I have just acquired one copy of SG 56 and SG 57 with the watermark sideways inverted - i.e. with the Crown to the right of CA, the top of the Crown facing the right of the stamp when viewed from the back.

Are any members able to advise me of the rarity (and possible value) of these stamps, and whether any information is available to determine how many of the "inverted sideways" watermarks exist?

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by S. P. Jarvis

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JAMAICA

RIO BUENO – A FIND OF 1830S COVERS

BY ANTHONY WILKINSON

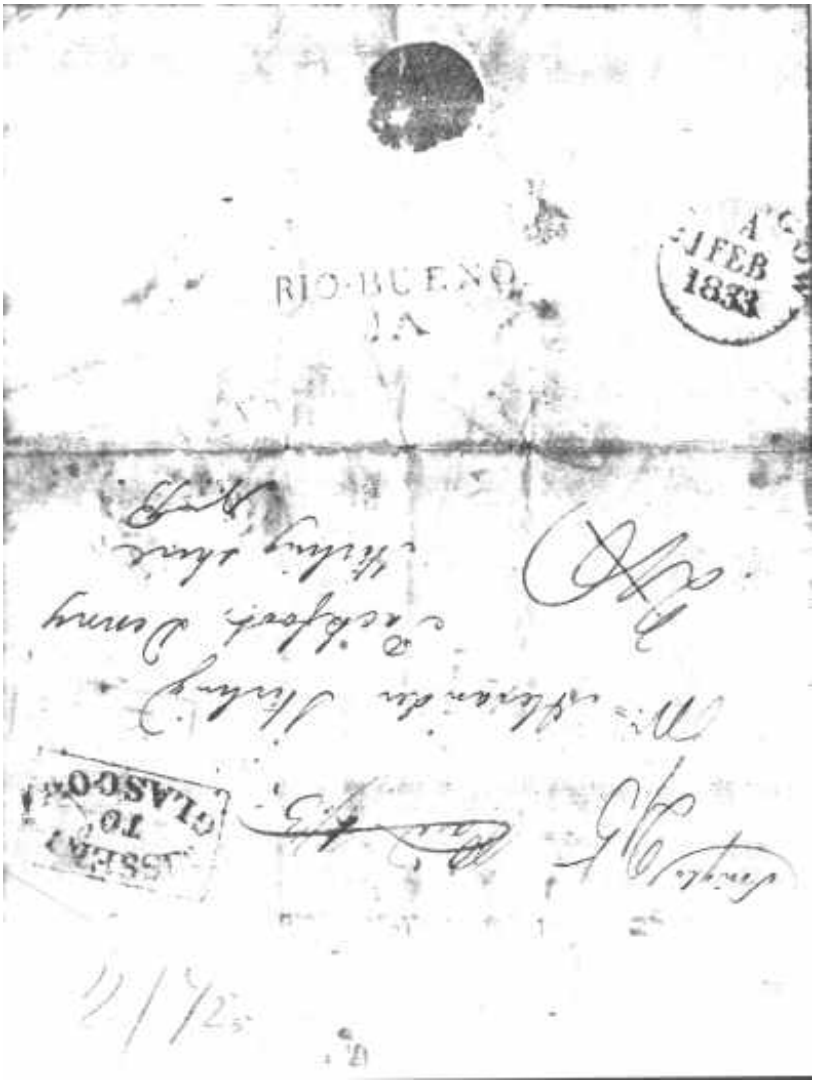
At one of the London Fairs last autumn, I acquired a small bundle of correspondence relating to the Georgia Estate near Duncans. Three of the covers, with dates between 5 February 1830 and 14 December 1832 bore strikes of 'RIO-BUENO/JA' in Tom Foster's Type T3. The cover with the best example is shown here; the others will be offered at the Study Circle auction in the Spring.

This mark was rated 'U' for 'Unique' by Foster and no measurements are given in his handbook, suggesting that the only strikes known to him was too poor to be measurable. The example illustrated measures 12 x 39mm, and is on a letter headed 'Georgis Trelawny' dated '14.12.1832', addressed to Stirlingshire in Scotland. It passed through Kingston three days later, reaching Glasgow on 1 February 1833, where it received a framed 'MISSENT/TO/GLASGOW'.

Notes:

1. Georgia is only about two miles south of Duncans, but letters were taken a further 6 or 7 miles to be posted at Rio Bueno. Duncans is known to have had a Post Office until at least 1817, but no postmarks are known between 1792 and 1840. It is possible that Duncans PO may have been closed at the time these letters were written.

2. The endorsement 'Paid 1/3' records the postage paid in local currency (8d sterling) between Rio Bueno and Kingston, a journey of about 76 miles. As the letter was endorsed 'Single', this was the rate for inland carriage over 100 miles. However, at that time, the route between Dry Harbour and Runaway Bay ran via Alexandria adding about 31 miles to the direct route along the coast.



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LEEWARD ISLANDS

REGISTRATION MARKINGS AND LABELS (PART 1)

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

Since publication of *Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists*, I have been asked if they could be expanded to include other aspects of philatelic interest - registration, censorship, cancellations and postal markings prior to 1840 - aspects upon which I am not very well versed and hence why they were not included. Resulting from correspondence and exchange of information with Rob Wynstra I venture with some trepidation into producing a listing of registration Markings and Labels.

The format follows that of the postmarks (hopefully less confusing) with the marks and labels separated into main types. Type 4 is a key (frame) and name plate type used in a number of other colonies and postal agencies. From study of labels I have it appears that they were printed in numbered rolls when many examples have imperforate sides and also that two different methods of printing were employed:–

a) 1908–1931, the key plate includes the number and the second impression is the name.
b) 1931–1956, the key plate includes the name and the second impression is the number.

Although some have the appearance of possibly three separate impressions I have discounted this as too expensive for the production of these labels and, moreover, it is most unlikely that small SPOs were provided with numbering machines. While misalignment between the two impressions permitted much greater latitude than for postage stamps, the assessment of those which I have listed as different labels is tentative. Further research into the methods of printing and numbering is necessary before a more definitive listing can be produced with confidence.

Fig. 1 - Different Key and Name Plates

Whilst Fig. 1 illustrates obvious different key and name plates, I have taken the examples below to be name plate misalignment, even though their dates of usage overlap. The small variations in size of name and numbers may be due to photo-copying.

D12R: 1915–1928 **D13R: 1924–27**

Dates of usage of the main types do not generally follow a chronological sequence. Types 1 and 3 appear throughout and some Type 5 precede Type 4. The lists end, as for the postage stamps, on 30 June 1956, except for Dominica on 31 December 1939.

All marks and labels recorded are illustrated but slightly reduced. For many I have only one date of posting given under EKD unless known to have been in use at the last dates.

Whilst all Type 3 marks known on Leeward Islands mail are listed, some probably may have been applied en route or on arrival, e.g. D7R – England and D8R – USA. It is not uncommon from the late 1920s for registered letters to have been dispatched with only a blue crayon cross when British labels were applied at ports of arrival, as in Fig. 2.

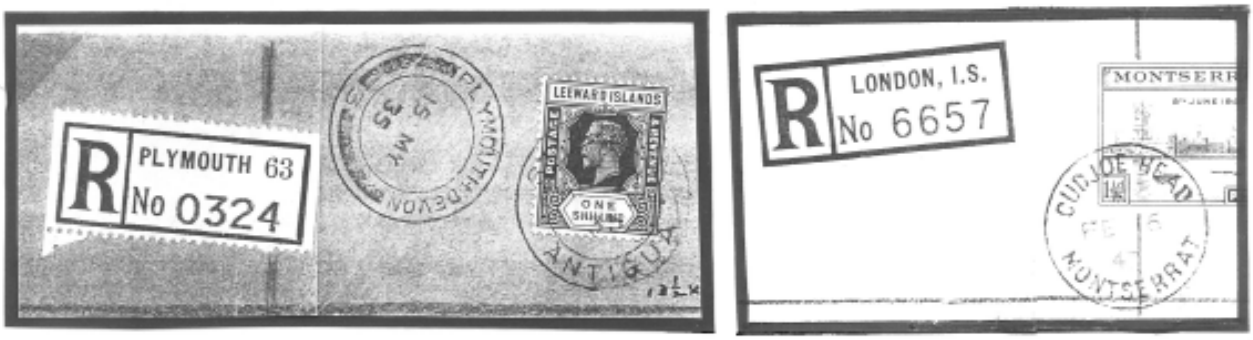


Fig. 2 - Labels applied on arrival

A number of registered letters posted at SPOs have manuscript markings applied by the sub-Postmasters, as in Fig. 3. These are beyond the scope of this listing.

Fig. 3 - Manuscript Markings

The Virgin islands received named handstamps and instructional marks in 1906,including straight line Virgin Gorda and West End. Whilst these were probably intended for use as instructional marks at the GPO, it appears that these two were sent to the SPOs and used as registration marks, as in Fig. 4. Accordingly, they are included in the listing.

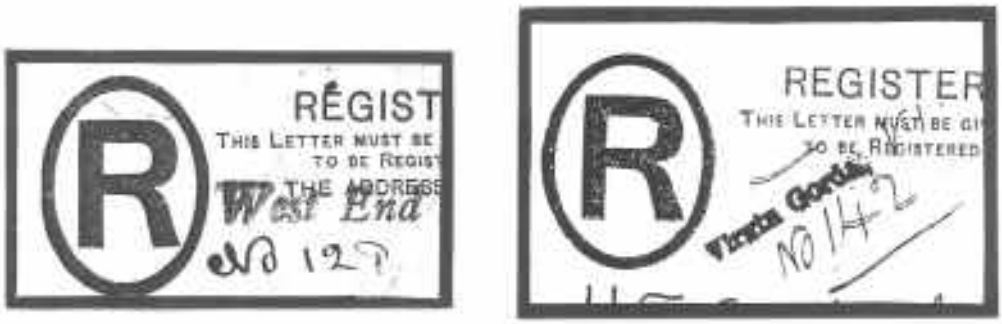


Fig. 4 - Virgin Is. SPO straight line handstamps

In the listings under 'Post Office', the name is given as printed on the mark or label, its position relative to the Island name given in the 'Notes' column. Dimensions are to the outside of the frame, with representative measurements for handstamps of irregular shapes.

Corrections and new information will be most welcome.

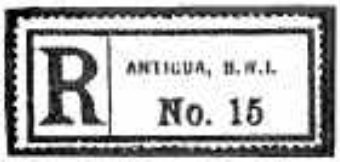
The Main Types

Type 1 – A1R

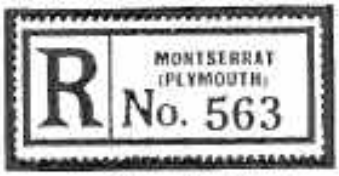
Type 2 - D5R

Type 3 – M2R

Type 3b – D9R

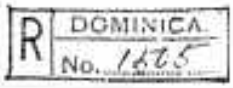


Type 4 – A7R

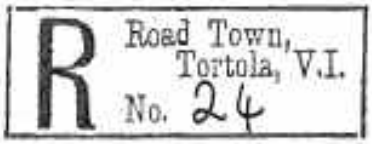


Type 4 – M8R

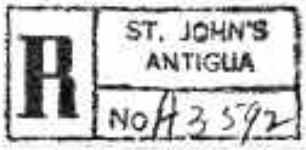
Type 4a – A17R



D11R



V5R



A11R

Type 5

Type 1 - Rubber stamp 'R' in oval

Type 2 - Rubber stamp 'R'

Type 3 - 'REGISTERED' handstamp. **Type 3b** – boxed

Type 4 - Named perforated adhesive label

Type 5 - Named handstamp label

Type 6 - Other types unique to an Island

ANTIGUA

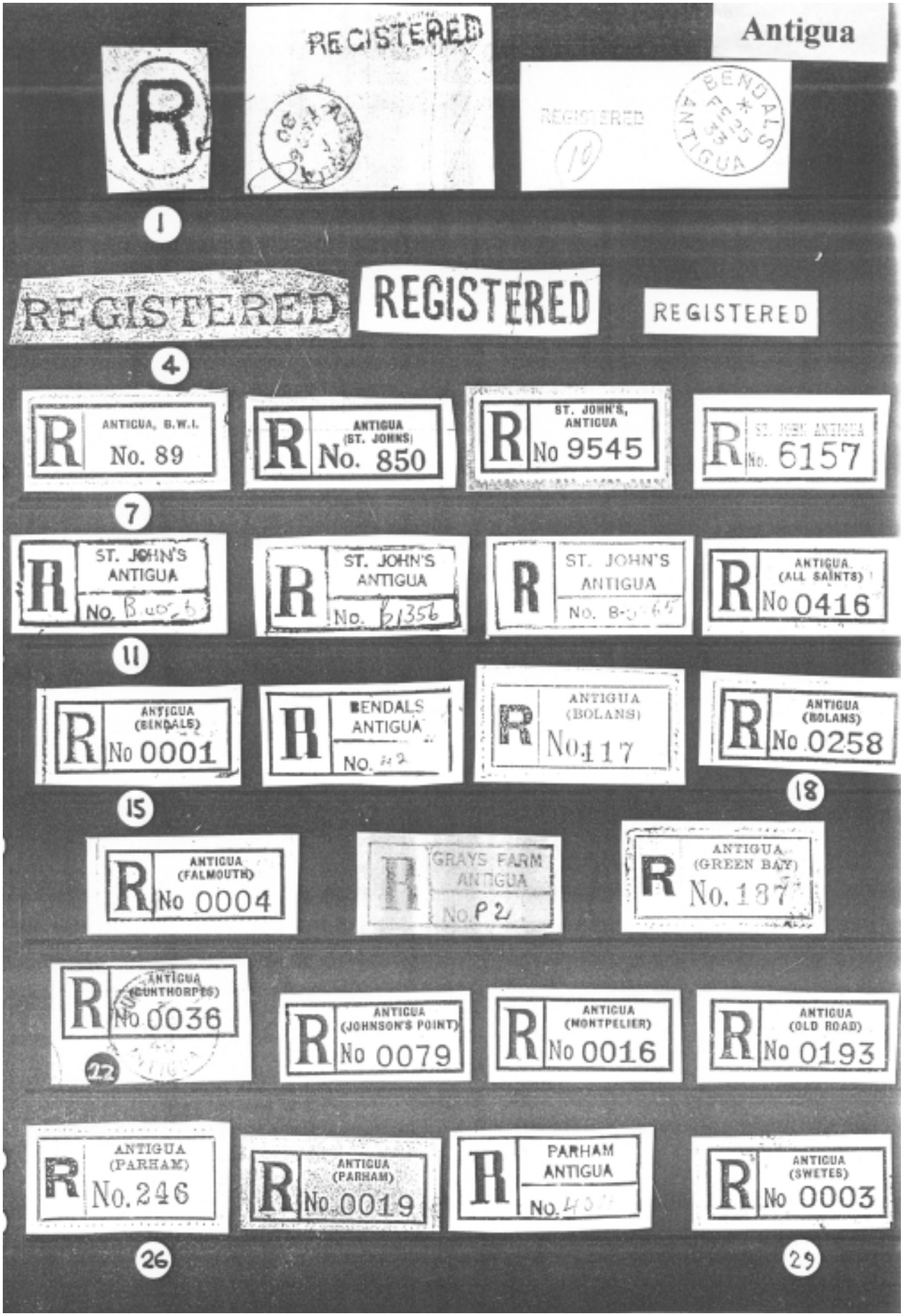
No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
A1R	GPO	1	20 x 26	87	07	
A2R	GPO	3	39 x 5	26 Feb80		
A3R	GPO	3	22 x 3	22 Feb 33		
A4R	GPO	3	68 x 7	27 June 38		
A5R	GPO	3	46 x 10	27 Dec 35		
A6R	GPO	3	33 x 3½	27 Dec 35		
A7R	ANTIGUA,B.W.I.	4	40 x 15	11	27 Feb 19	A7R-A29R include ANTIGUA
A8R	(ST.JOHNS)	4	40 x 15½	2 Oct 28	30 Jan 32	Bottom
A9R	ST. JOHN'S,	4	38 x 15½	38	40	Top
A10R	ST.JOHN	4	38 x 15½	Nov 46		Straight line
Al1R	ST.JOHN'S	5	41 x 18		30 Jun 56	Top - square R
A12R	ST.JOHN'S	5	41 x 18	51		Top - rounded R
A13R	ST.JOHN'S	5	41 x 18		30 June 56	Top - non-serif R & 'No.B-"
A14R	(ALL SAINTS)	4	39 x 15	31 Oct 33		Bottom
A15R	BENDALS	4	38 x 15	10 Feb 34		Bottom (No. 0001)
A16R	BENDALS	5	39 x 18	51		Top
A17R	(BOLANS)	4a	38 x 17½	22 Oct 32		Bottom
A18R	(BOLANS)	4	38 x 15	18 May 51		Bottom
A19R	(FALMOUTH)	4	38 x 15	8 Feb 34		Bottom
A20R	GRAYS FARM	5	40 x 17½			Top
A21R	(GREEN BAY)	4a	38 x 17½	3 Mar 33	6 Dec 33	Bottom
A22R	(GUNTHORPES)	4	38 x 15	40		Bottom
A23R	(JOHNSON'S POINT	4	38 x 15	17 Mar 51		Bottom
A24R	(MONTPELIER)	4	38 x 15			Bottom
A25R	(OLD ROAD)	4	38 x 14½		51	Bottom
A26R	(PARHAM)	4a	38'/2x17½	18 Feb 29		Bottom
A27R	(PARHAM)	4	38 x 15	19 Mar 35		Bottom
A28R	PARHAM	5	40 x 17½	51		Top
A29R	(SWETES)	4	38 x 15	Oct 34		Bottom

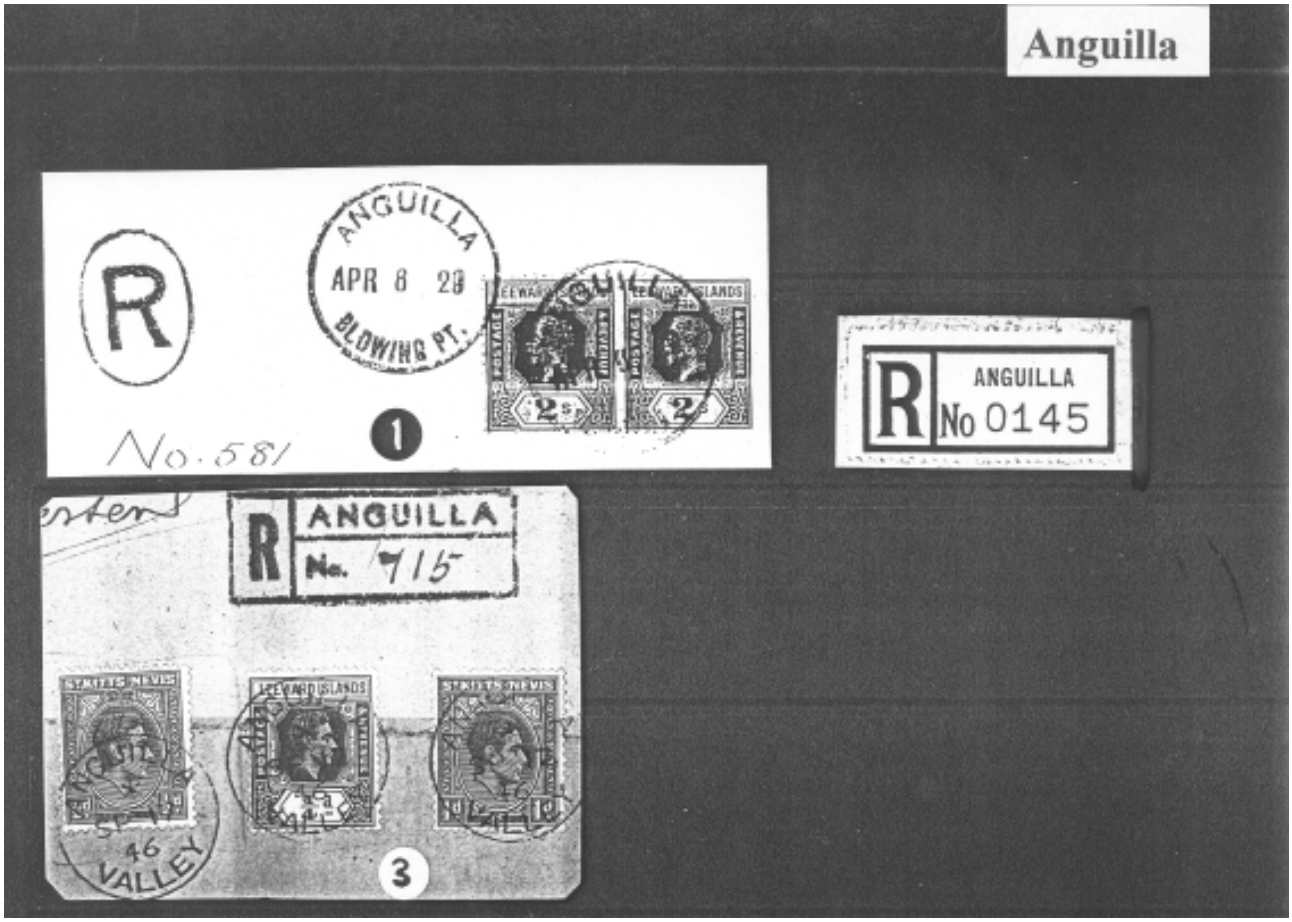
ANGUILLA

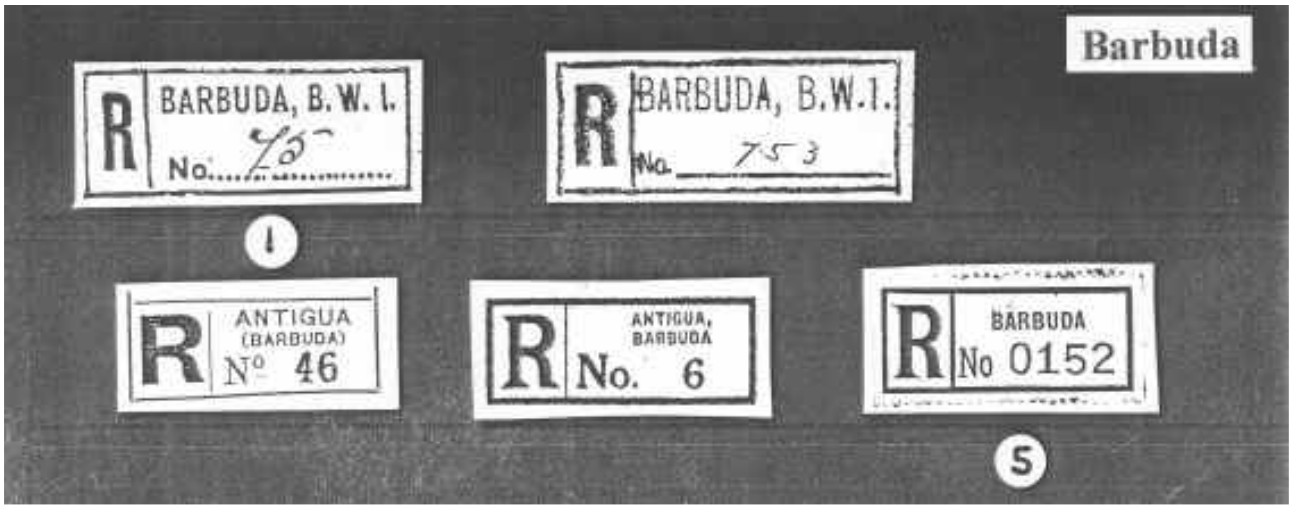
No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
AN1R	SPO	1	17 x 23	8 Apr 28	30 June 56	SK2R transferred?
AN2R	ANGUILLA	4	38½ x 16	5 Feb 51		
AN3R	ANGUILLA	5	44 x 17	17 Sep 46		

BARBUDA

No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
B1R	BARBUDA, B.W.I.	5	50 x 18	22	29	Narrow R-small letters
B2R	BARBUDA, B.W.I.	5	51½ x 20	9 Apr 26	23 0ct 29	Wider R - larger leers
B3R	ANTIGUA, BARBUDA	4a	38 x 14½	30 0ct 30		Bottom
B4R	ANTIGUA, BARBUDA	4	40½ x 15½	22 May 31	28 0ct 35	Bottom
B5R	BARBUDA	4	38 x 15½	30 Mar 36	56	


Antigua
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
BENDALS
ANTIGUA
1
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
4
ANTIGUA, B.W.I.
No. 89
ANTIGUA
(ST. JOHNS)
No. 850
ST. JOHN'S,
ANTIGUA
No 9545
No. 6157
7
ST. JOHN'S
ANTIGUA
ST. JOHN'S
ANTIGUA
ST. JOHN'S
ANTIGUA
ANTIGUA
(ALL SAINTS)
No 0416
11
ANTIGUA
(BENDALS)
No 0001
BENDALS
ANTIGUA
ANTIGUA
(BOLANS)
No 117
ANTIGUA
(BOLANS)
No 0258
15
18
ANTIGUA
(FALMOUTH)
No 0004
GRAYS FARM
ANTIGUA
No. P2
ANTIGUA
(GREEN BAY)
No. 137
ANTIGUA
(CUNTHORPES)
No 0036
22
ANTIGUA
(JOHNSON'S POINT)
No 0079
ANTIGUA
(MONTPELIER)
No 0016
ANTIGUA
(OLD ROAD)
No 0193
ANTIGUA
(PARHAM)
No. 246
ANTIGUA
(PARHAM)
No 0019
PARHAM
ANTIGUA
ANTIGUA
(SWETES)
No 0003
26
29





To be concluded in the September Bulletin

LEEWARD ISLANDS – NOTES FOR PHILATELISTS

It is now almost two years since the final proof was sent for printing, ending a period of frantic communication with Peter Ford in order to achieve the May 2000 publication date. Unfortunately, this resulted in more mistakes and omissions than should reasonably be expected. With other additions and amendments having come to light subsequently, I have produced an Errata and Andenda (excluding new information that adds to the text) to Januaty 2002. This is available on request to those who have purchased the book.

[M.N. Oliver, Back Lane Cottage, Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9NA

NEVIS

A REGISTERED LETTERS AFFAIR

BY FEDERICO BORROMEO

In search of information about the postal history of Nevis at the Public Record Office at Kew I found in the documents kept under the files indexed as 'Correspondence, original - Secretary of State' (location CO 184/13) of 1865, the following material concerning registered letters. As everybody knows, such letters are very rare indeed, and little is known about the procedures for handling and transmitting them, not only for Nevis, but also for many other countries.

I have been able to trace, for that little Colony only five registered letters before the Nevis issues were superseded by those of the Leeward Islands in 1890. In itself this is a negligible number, but it represents some 8% of the total of 60 reported letters franked with Nevis stamps, and is curiously large. Usually, only 1 in about 1000 letters is registered.

The census is as follows:–

(1) 7 August 1880, registered letter No.103, sent to Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co., the well known London stamp dealers, franked with a pair of the lithographic 4d orange.

(2) 21 January 1884 sent to Emil Fuchs, most probably another individual involved in stamp collecting in Berlin, franked with a single lithographic 6d grey and a single De La Rue 4d blue.

(3) 2 September 1886 sent to London, franked with a single 4d grey and a pair of the 1d red, all from the De La Rue production.

(4) 19 June 1890 sent to Jersey, franked with a single De La Rue 1s pale violet.

(5) 27 August 1890 sent to Germany, franked with a single De La Rue 1s pale violet.

The documents found at the PRO are related to a research of a missing registered letter addressed to the Manager of 'the Agra and Masterman's Bank' in London. The letter, sent by the Loan Commissioners on 11 November 1864 with the Packet arrived in London 18 days later, and contained a Colonial Bank Bill amounting to three hundred and fifty pounds,

The first letter to be found in the files is unfortunately spoiled and does not bear any date, the upper part of the sheet being also missing:–

(omissis) ... thus unhappily taken place, and venture to the hope, on the authority of the Official Receipt from the Post Office on London, that no further inconvenience may arise from the transaction

I have the honor to be Viz. (?) Excellency's Most Obedient humble servant

Fas. H, Sheriff (?) – signature. President

Attached to that letter there is a single sheet with, on one side, a hand-written copy of an official form (*Fig.1*).

Copy. 2.2522/65

Registered Letter List from British West Indies

General Post Office London – 2nd Dec. 1864

Address of Registered Letters forwarded from London, Msre's (?)

Number – Origin – To whom Addressed – Destination

F. Stuppan Despatch Officer

Tha[t] three Registered Letters despatched from Nevis by the Mail of the 11th Nov. and despatched by the Mail of the ..... have been duly received

(signed) W. P. White – Genrra (Post Office London 28th Nov. 1864)

On the same sheet at the back (Fig.2) we find:–

Nevis February 24th 1865

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Original document received from the General Post Office London, and I further certify the three Registered Letters therein acknowledged to be received, were forwarded by the Steamer of the 11th Nov. last, and were Registered and addressed as follows.

Registered, N°206, Addressed to the Manager of the Agra and Masterman's Bank – London

Registered, N°207, Addressed to J. W. Viner Esq.re – 32 Deinbigh Street – London

Registered, N° 208, Addressed to Messrs. Edwd More & Co, Dealers in Foreign Postage Stamps – Liverpool

Moses O'Daniel – pro (?) Postmaster

It is interesting to see that one letter has been sent to the stamp dealer Edward Moore of Liverpool, most probably with postage stamps enclosed. Under the name of Moore, or as Moore and Co., and probably also as Moore and Eden, have been published ten or so different catalogues, only from 1862 till 1864 (see Crawford 275 and 276).

A third sheet is also quite interesting for in the left side there is a sketch of the handstamp showing the actual date of despatch, 11 November 1864 (*Fig.3*).

(Copy).

N°206 – Registered Letter

Received this eleventh day of November 1864 a Letter addressed to Agra and Masterman's Bank – London.

Post Marks, or Letter Receiver's Signature
(signed) Moses O'Daniel.

Nevis Febr. 24th 1865

I certify the above to be true and correct copy of the original document issued from this Office

Moses O'Daniel

pro (?) Postmaster

In the files there are another two pages concerning this 'Registered letters affair'.

2522 Nevis

Nevis N°21

Leeward Islands – Antigua 27th February 1865

(stamped 'RECEIVED CO – MAR 16 1865')

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a Despatch from the President of Nevis conveying his apprehension that a Colonial Bank Bill amounting to three hundred and fifty pounds forwarded by the Loan Commissioners and addressed to the Manager of "the Agra and Masterman's Bank" has failed to reach its destination and requesting I would explain the circumstances and inform the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that the Loan Commissioner of Nevis will forward to the Bankers of the Agra and Masterman's Bank the second of the Bill.

2. As the letter enclosing the Bill was duly Registered and its receipt acknowledged by the Authorities of the London Post Office I can only presume it is an oversight on the part of the Bankers not informing the Commissioners that their letter with the Bill had been received.

3. Mr Sheriff Despatch N°65 of the 15th November l ast was transmitted in mine "Nevis" N°141 of the 21s t November 1864.

I have the honour to be

Sir, Your most obedient, humble Servant

Stephen Hill – Governor

to the Right Honorable

Edward Cordwell

All these documents and the letters can give an idea of the bureaucratic procedures in those days. The documents speak for themselves and shed light on a procedure seldom seen.

Fig 1

'NEVIS'

by

FEDERICO BORROMEO

This is the second in the `Classic Collections' series published by the British West Indies Study Circle. Nevis is a difficult country to collect, with most of the little available material permanently locked away in institutional collections. The collection illustrated in this booklet is almost certainly the finest in private hands and is still being actively developed.

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Fig 2

Fig 3

ST LUCIA

FIRST FLIGHTS *BY ALISTER KINNON*

The first flight from Montserrat to St. Lucia was due to take place in June 1930 and I have three covers each dated 20 June. I have recently acquired a registered cover, handstamped 'First Air Mail; Montserrat' and datestamped 9 June. That this cover went by the delayed flight is proved as it is datestamped at Castries on 27 February 1931, incidentally one day after the non-registered covers. If this registered cover was properly dated when it was handed to the postal clerk, does this perhaps suggest that non-registered covers were dated on the day of the proposed flight and not on the day they were given to the post office? This practice is not unknown as shown by the dating of covers at San Juan for the first extension airmails on FAM6 from San Juan to Paramaribo and points en route on 22 September 1929. Has anybody another registered cover from this flight and if so what dates does it bear?

LADY BOATS *BY ALISTER KINNON*

In the Bulletin of September 2001, Michael Oliver wrote an interesting piece about the CNS Lady Boats. Just for the record, I have recently acquired a plain postcard addressed to Philadelphia, bearing a manuscript notation 'Lady Nelson' which appears to tie-in with the sailing date from Halifax of 23 August if mailed on the southbound run.

The postcard bears a Canadian one cent stamp cancelled with the Castries boxed Paquebot mark and dated Castries, St. Lucia, 2 September 1929. It also bears a handstamped 'Mailed at Sea' (struck in green) similar to the mark shown in illustration 2b on page 12.

AUCTION UPDATE

BY CHARLES FREELAND

The last quarter has been a quiet one for BWI specialists. The trumpeted collections of Pat Burke at Grosvenor and Prof. Shoemaker's Tobago at Bennett were disappointing for those with advanced aspirations, and some of us found more treasure trove at the Study Circle's own auction than in any public auction-house. The Spink March sale contained almost entirely re-offered material, including the nice St Lucia collection (ex-Molly) that went for £20,000 to a supposedly "new buyer".

Coming up.....well, not a great deal to my knowledge. David Druett's sale, which has several nice things, will be over by the time this appears, as will the May Spink sale, that again contains little new BWI material and the Siegel sale on 15 May containing several Bahamas and Bermuda blockade covers from the Watson correspondence. The highlight of the summer looks likely to be the Victoria Stamp Company sale on 21 June. This will feature a splendid collection of St. Kitts and Nevis pre-stamp covers consigned by a prominent member of the BCPSG plus lots of other goodies across the range including strong sections of Br Guiana, Jamaica, Leeward Islands and GVI specialist items. Further ahead, I have heard rumblings that Frank Deakin may decide to sell his Barbados in the near term, probably through Harmers.

If the editor can spare me another paragraph, a letter to the London Philatelist has reopened the perennial question as to why a Mauritius Post Office is worth a million or two when unique items can be acquired for a few hundred or less. The answer is of course that supply is only one side of the equation - demand is also a factor, and many very rich people would like a Post Office, while the attractions of that unique British Guiana numeral cancel are more esoteric. If it does not sound pompous, "philatelic importance" is an issue, - the skill for the collector wishing to make a wise investment is to spot what is philatelically important and identify possible changes in "fashion" before others do.

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